



101 W. Washington Street  
Suite 1170 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-1233  
[www.IN.gov/CJI](http://www.IN.gov/CJI)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 15, 2015**

## **Indiana Commemorates National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the National Center for Victims of Crime announced today the upcoming statewide commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW).

NCVRW is an annual event during the month of April, and takes place this year April 19-25. The 2015 theme is titled "Engaging Communities, Empowering Victims."

"Ensuring crime victims understand their rights, protections, and access to services is critical in helping them recover their security and dignity," said ICJI Director Mary Allen. "This important week allows the Institute and organizations across our state the opportunity to raise awareness about the valuable resources available to those in need."

Established by the OVC and the National Center for Victims of Crime, NCVRW honors and celebrates the achievements of the past thirty years in securing victims' rights. The bipartisan Victims of Crime Act, passed by Congress in 1984, created a national fund that is backed by the fines and penalties paid by offenders. The Crime Victims Fund supports victim assistance services such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs, and victim compensation programs that pay for counseling, funeral expenses and lost wages

ICJI's Victim Services division administers the federal dollars through grants to service providers throughout the state. In 2014, ICJI awarded more than \$16 million in federal funding to over 430 organizational grant recipients. These programs helped more than 196,000 victims of crime.

For more information on NCVRW, please visit: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw/>. For a complete list of events honoring NCVRW, broken down by county, please click [here](#). To learn more about Indiana's statewide resources available to assist victims of crime, please visit: [www.IN.gov/CJI](http://www.IN.gov/CJI), and click on the victim services link.

-30-

**Media Contact:** Adam Baker  
Communications Director  
(317) 417-8562; [adbaker@cji.in.gov](mailto:adbaker@cji.in.gov)